

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending.

The Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, restriction is required to one of the following groups of invention:

- I) Claims 1-3 drawn to a method of enhancing the ability of a genotype 2b NS5B sequence to function in a replicon;
- II) Claims 4-6 drawn to a method of producing a chimeric replicon;
- III) Claims 7-14 and 16-20 drawn to a chimeric replicon and recombinant cell comprising the replicon; and
- IV) Claim 15, drawn to a method for measuring the ability of a compound to inhibit the replicon activity.

In order to be fully responsive, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group III (claims 7-14 and 16-20), to prosecute in the present application without prejudice to prosecution of the subject matter of the non-elected groups in subsequent applications.

Conclusion

It is believed that the claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly requested.

Authorization

No fee is believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to deposit account 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

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